

REMARKS

The present Amendment amends claims 1-17 and 19-22. Therefore, the present application has pending claims 1-22.

In paragraph 1 of the Office Action the Examiner objects to the drawings as allegedly failing to comply with 37 CFR §1.84(a). Amendments were made to the claims to correct the language to correspond to the features illustrated in the drawings. Thus, the drawings now show all the features recited in the claims. Therefore, reconsideration and withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

In paragraph 2 of the Office Action the Examiner indicated that the Information Disclosure Statement submitted on August 21, 2003 has not been considered being that the Examiner alleges that the August 21, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement did not comply with 37 CFR §1.98. Attached herewith is a Form PTO-1449 which list the references submitted by the August 21, 2003 Information Disclosure Statement. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner indicate consideration of said references in the forth coming Office Action.

Claims 5-11 and 14-18 stand objected to due to informalities noted by the Examiner in paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Amendments were made to claims 5-11 and 14-18 to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner. Therefore, this objection is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Claims 12, 13 and 19-22 stand rejected under 35 USC §112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regards as their invention. Various amendments were made throughout claims 12, 13 and 19-22 to bring them

into conformity with the requirements of 35 USC §112, second paragraph. Therefore, this rejection with respect to claims 12, 13 and 19-22 is overcome and should be withdrawn.

Specifically, amendments were made throughout claims 12, 13 and 19-22 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action.

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraph 6 of the Office Action that claims 1-4 are allowed.

Applicants also acknowledge the Examiner's indication in paragraphs 7 and 8 of the Office Action that claims 5-11 and 14-18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the objections as set forth in the Office Action and claims 12, 13 and 19-22 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection.

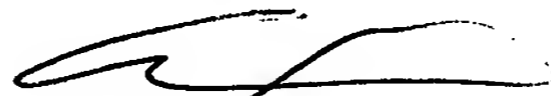
Amendments were made to claims 5-11 and 14-18 to overcome the objections noted by the Examiner in the Office Action and amendments were made to claims 12, 13 and 19-22 to overcome the 35 USC §112, second paragraph rejection including all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Therefore, Applicants submit that claims 5-22 are allowable as indicated by the Examiner.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants submit that claims 1-22 are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, early allowance of claims 1-22 is respectfully requested.

To the extent necessary, the applicants petition for an extension of time under 37 CFR 1.136. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment of fees, to the deposit account of MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C., Deposit Account No. 50-1417 (500.43030X00).

Respectfully submitted,

MATTINGLY, STANGER, MALUR & BRUNDIDGE, P.C.



Carl I. Brundidge
Registration No. 29,621

CIB/jdc
(703) 684-1120